International Seabed Authority

ISBA/21/LTC/13

Legal and Technical Commission

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Selection of candidates for the training programme of Tonga Offshore Mining Limited

Note by the secretariat

1. In accordance with schedule 3 of the contract for exploration between the International Seabed Authority and Tonga Offshore Mining Limited (TOML), the secretariat was informed in April 2015 that TOML would commence its offshore exploration campaign in the Clarion-Clipperton zone in June 2015. The duration of this offshore campaign will be about 90 days without any intervening port calls. Accordingly, TOML requested the Authority to nominate suitably qualified person(s) from developing nations (other than Tonga) to participate in at-sea training during the campaign. It was noted that the nominated person(s) would need to have completed a certified offshore sea survival training course. Responsibility for training will be met by TOML.

2. Since the TOML training proposal was submitted to the Authority at short notice, a streamlined trainee selection process was followed in accordance with paragraphs 11 to 13 of ISBA/20/LTC/13. Given that 14 candidates (including 4 first-ranked candidates and 10 alternates) had already been selected by the Legal and Technical Commission in February 2015 out of 95 applicants for the China Ocean Mineral Resources Research and Development Association (COMRA) training programme, the secretariat suggested that the candidates for the TOML training opportunities could be selected from the alternates for the COMRA training.

3. The secretariat contacted the nine alternates to verify their availability for this training opportunity.[1] Five of them confirmed their availability. On 12 May 2015, TOML informed the secretariat that the at-sea training would commence on 15 June 2015 and that TOML would be willing to take two candidates. Following the receipt of further details of the training (particularly the dates), three candidates confirmed their availability.

[1] One first alternate, Natalia Amezcua Torres from Mexico, has taken the place of Taufan Wiguna from Indonesia since Mr. Wiguna would be no longer available for COMRA training programme in 2015.

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4. Based on the above and following consultations with TOML, on 27 May 2015, the Commission's ad hoc subgroup on training agreed to recommend to the full Commission that the following candidates be chosen for the TOML training programme:

First-ranked candidates

Andriharizafy Rantosoa (Madagascar)
Victor Lopes (Brazil)

Alternate

Chinedu Okweze (Nigeria)

5. It is recalled that both Mr. Rantosoa and Mr. Lopes had been selected as alternates for the Japan Oil, Gas and Metals National Corporation training programme in 2015 (see ISBA/20/LTC/13) and for the COMRA Fellowship and Engineering training programmes in 2015 (see ISBA/21/LTC/10).

6. On 29 May 2015, by e-mail, the Commission endorsed the recommendation of the subgroup and decided to recommend to the Secretary-General the same candidates and alternate for the TOML training programme.

7. The Commission is invited to take note of the above and to make such recommendations as may be appropriate as to the future application of the streamlined selection process.